

**Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2)**  
**Hagerty Center, Northwestern Michigan College**  
**July 21, 2008**

**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting began at: 9:05 a.m.

**Members Present:** Sen. Glenn Anderson, Rep. Pam Byrnes, Sen. Jud Gilbert, Dennis Gillow, Rep. Phil LaJoy, John James, Ann Jousma-Miller, Mike Nystrom, Roger Salo, Peter Varga, Susan Zehnder, and Rich Studley.

**Members Absent:** Cindy Elliot

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gillow. The meeting minutes from the June 30, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously. Public comment was offered, but none was forthcoming.

Gretchen Driskell, CAC Chairperson, provided a brief introduction to the Task Force regarding the pending reports from the CAC Subcommittee chairs.

Bill Gehman, CAC Aviation Subcommittee Chair, provided a slide presentation to the taskforce on Aviation needs under the Do-nothing, Good, Better, and Best Scenarios.

Mickey Blashfield and Gloria Combe, CAC Intermodal Freight Subcommittee Chairpersons, provided a slide presentation to the taskforce on Intermodal Freight needs under the Do-nothing, Good, Better, and Best Scenarios.

Sylvester Payne, CAC Intermodal Passenger Subcommittee Chair, provided a slide presentation to the taskforce on Intermodal Passenger needs under the Do-nothing, Good, Better, and Best Scenarios.

**Public Comment**

- Todd Belanger, Grand Traverse Regional Interagency Consumer Committee, discussed public transit in the Bay area, stated that due to increases in ridership there were not enough buses, and suggested that the creation of a north/south bike path would be helpful.
- Diane Kempen, YMCA/Transportation Work Group - Michigan Development Disability Council, stated she provides education and transportation advocacy training (United Cerebral Palsy Transportation Allies.net), requested TF2 meeting times and agendas to be posted, more money for transit, better access for the impaired, and believes current transit funding does not encourage cooperation among agencies.
- Donna Nichols, Development Disabilities Council Transportation Work Group (Mason County Regional Consumer Committee), requested Dial-a-Ride service be provided in the country as it is in the city.

- Becky Diem, Developmental Disabilities Council Transportation Work Group (Mason County Regional Consumer Committee), requested that Dial-a-Ride service be provided in the county as it is in the city.
- Lance Malburg, Oceana County Road Commission, stated that funding is a big issue, rural road funding is being left out of the funding debate, many of the asset management reports do not accurately reflect the road conditions in Oceana County, and recommended that any transportation funding formula change should be fair for everyone.
- Bob Otwell, Tart Trails, shared two stories about non-motorized activities (working with MDOT to add shoulders for bike lanes and two bicyclist that crashed going over a wet bridge), echoed the importance of the trail network mentioned in the Intermodal Passenger Subcommittee presentation, expressed willingness to work with local/state/federal officials on their “Grand Vision” project, and believes that we need to focus on how we use our land as it has a big impact on transportation system.
- Frank Lynn, Concerned Citizens for Improved Transit – Kent County, mentioned that his group is working with other transit advocates to develop a statewide vision for transit (provided a brief overview of the vision), believes the major components of the system should include high speed rail, metro commuter rail, local bus service, intercity service, non motorized infrastructure, lifeline service(urban and rural), disability accessible advanced services, and stated that we need a strong public transportation system to attract a creative class.

Robert Struck, CAC Highways, Roads, and Bridges Subcommittee Chair, provided a slide presentation to the taskforce on highways, roads, and bridges needs under the Do-nothing, Good, Better, and Best Scenarios.

Tim Hoeffner, MDOT Policy Administrator, facilitated a TF2 discussion on transportation needs and requested whether the task force needed any additional information. The task force requested that MDOT provide additional information highlighting recommendations that save lives, create jobs, and maximizes the leverage of federal funds. Peter Varga also requested a one-pager that outlines what will be lost under the ‘do-nothing’ scenario.

Tim Hoeffner provided a brief overview to the task force on the results from the funding alternatives survey that was recently completed by the task force (12 respondents out of 13). The task force requested that each alternative funding be grouped in similar categories for discussion purposes.

The agenda for the August 11, 2008 TF2 meeting will continue the discussion on alternative funding options by category and program outcomes for each proposed recommendation.

*Follow up:*

- 1) Develop four sets of needs scenarios under one table.
- 2) Highlight where funding will save lives, create jobs, level of federal funds that would be leveraged, and what the return on investment is.
- 3) Provide outcome data for the different strategies for each revenue group.

The meeting ended at 4:10 p.m.